

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 NSC-05 OES-07 HEW-04

AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 /059 W

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9667

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OVIP, FAO, EAGR, CE

SUBJ: FAO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICIES,
SECOND SESSION, ROME, MARCH 6-10, 1978

REF: (A) STATE 046291; (B) STATE 037553

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT N. WIJEYERATNE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, UNITED NATIONS AND CONFERENCE DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WAS THE COORDINATOR FOR SRI LANKA PARTICIPATION IN FAO AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) MEETINGS. AT WIJEYERATNE'S REQUEST, THE ECON OFFICER SENT HIM INFORMAL PAPERS BASED ON REFTELS AND ASKED TO MEET WITH HIM TO DISCUSS FIRST THE AGENDA FOR THE WFC MEETING IN MEXICO CITY (REFTEL B) AND THEN THE SUBJECT MEETING (REFTEL A).

2. AFTER REPEATED REQUESTS FOR A MEETING, WIJEYERATNE FINALLY SAID THAT WHILE HE IS THE COORDINATOR, IT IS THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE THAT MAKES INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA (GSL). A CALL TO AGRICULTURE REVEALED THAT THE MINISTRY WAS UNAWARE OF THE ROME MEETING AND THAT
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NO ONE FROM COLOMBO WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND. AGRICULTURE REFERRED THE ECON OFFICER BACK TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SEE IF SOMEONE FROM THE SRI LANKA MISSION IN ROME COULD ATTEND.

3. AT FIRST THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID THAT NO ONE AT THE MISSION WOULD BE AVAILABLE. THE ECON OFFICER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THE USG PLACES ON THE ROME MEETING, AND THE FOREIGN

MINISTRY FINALLY AGREED TO INSTRUCT SECOND SECRETARY N.K. RAJALINGAM TO ATTEND. THE ECON OFFICER ASKED THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS ALONG THE LINES OF REFTEL A BE SENT TO RAJALINGAM.

4. COMMENT: THE GSL'S APPROACH TO WORLD FOOD AND NUTRITION PROBLEMS IS AT BEST UNCOORDINATED. THE EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOR TO STIMULATE GREATER GSL INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION IN THESE MATTERS.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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